

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Aquatic Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

August 25, 2006

Board of Land
and Natural Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO AN \$873,651 PROJECT AGREEMENT
WITH THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII FOR FISH
AND HABITAT MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT (10/1/06-9/30/09)

Submitted herewith for your consideration is a request to enter into a new project Agreement between the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH). The goal of the project, as described below, is to provide information sufficient for the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to be able to fulfill its mission to manage, conserve and restore the state's unique aquatic resources and ecosystems for present and future generations. The Agreement will enable DAR to secure assistance from RCUH in implementing the project. RCUH's assistance is required in order for DAR to meet project goals and objectives in a timely way.

Fish and Habitat Monitoring and Assessment Project

This project involves monitoring activities that utilize and optimize an integrated ecosystem-scale monitoring approach within the Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI). Monitoring will encompass fish communities, mobile invertebrates, reef benthos (including corals, coral disease, algae and other sessile invertebrates), water temperature and turbidity (incident based). The monitoring methodologies developed and utilized will be appropriate, comprehensive, powerful and scientifically valid and compatible with other monitoring programs both within the State of Hawaii and nationally. The information/data gained from the monitoring project will enhance DAR's capabilities to monitor and manage Hawaii's coral reefs and fish populations, provide critical information on the status and health of a broad range of Hawaii coral reef areas, and assess the effectiveness of marine managed areas. Proposed monitoring will encompass a range of biological communities and include monitoring stations in fully protected, partially-protected and open areas on the islands of Oahu, Maui and Hawaii.

The 3-year project runs from October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2009 with approved total funding of \$873,651. Yearly level funding of \$291,271 (\$245,597 Federal; \$45,620 State) is being provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Sport Fish Restoration Program, NOAA National Coral Reef Initiative, and State of Hawaii (LNR 401 General Funds).

Approval to enter into the Agreement is being requested from the Governor, through the Department of Budget and Finance for review and approval. In addition, the Agreement is being reviewed by the Attorney General's Office for preliminary approval as to form.

RECOMMENDATION:

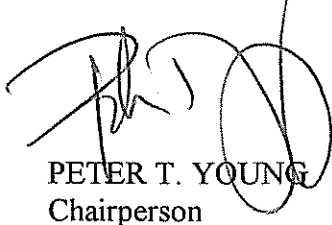
"That the Board authorize the Chairperson to negotiate and, subject to necessary approvals, enter into a project Agreement with the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii."

Respectfully submitted,



DAN A. POLHEMUS
Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



PETER T. YOUNG
Chairperson